C. Mammalian Toxicological Profile

Cry proteins have been deployed as safe and effective pest control agents in microbial *Bacillus thuringiensis* formulations for almost 40 years. There are currently 180 registered microbial *Bacillus thuringiensis* products in the United States for use in agriculture, forestry, and vector control. The numerous toxicology studies conducted with these microbial products show no significant adverse effects, and demonstrate that the products are practically non-toxic to mammals. An exemption from the requirement of a tolerance has been in place for these products since at least 1971 (40 CFR 180.1011).

Toxicology studies conducted to determine the toxicity of Cry1F insect control protein demonstrated that the protein has very low toxicity. In an acute oral toxicity study in the mouse, the estimated acute LD_{50} by gavage was determined to be > 5,050 milligrams/kilograms of the microbially produced test substance. This dose is 12,190 × greater than the estimated 95th percentile for human dietary exposure to Cry1F protein resulting from consumption of foods derived from Cry1F protected corn. This estimate assumes that 100% of the corn crop produces Cry1F protein and that the protein is not degraded or otherwise eliminated in food processing. This extremely conservative estimate of the margin of exposure further supports the safety of Cry1F proteins to humans.

In an *in vitro* study, Cry1F protein was rapidly and extensively degraded in simulated gastric conditions in the presence of pepsin. Cry1F was completely proteolyzed to amino acids and small peptide fragments within 5 minutes at molar ratios approximating 1:100 (Cry1F:pepsin). This indicates that the protein is highly susceptible to digestion in the human digestive tract and that the potential for adverse health effects from chronic exposure is virtually nonexistent. Moreover, proteins in general are not known to be carcinogenic. A search of relevant data bases indicated that the amino acid sequence of the Cry1F protein exhibits no significant homology to the sequences of known allergens or protein toxins. Thus, Cry1F is highly unlikely to exhibit an allergic response.

The genetic material necessary for the production of the Cry1F insect control protein are nucleic acids unscheduled DNA synthesis which are common to all forms of plant and animal life. There are no known instances of where nucleic acids have caused toxic effects as a result of dietary exposure.

Collectively, the available data on Cry1F protein along with the safe use history of microbial *Bacillus thuringiensis* products establishes the safety of the plant pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai* Cry1F insect control protein and the genetic material necessary for its production in all raw agricultural commodities.

D. Aggregate Exposure

In summary the potential for significant aggregate exposure to Cry1F protein is highly unlikely.

1. *Dietary exposure*—i. *Food*. Significant dietary exposure to Cry1F protein is unlikely to occur. Dietary exposures at very low levels, via ingestion of processed commodities, although they may occur, are unlikely to be problematic because of the low toxicity and the high degree of digestibility of the protein.

ii. *Drinking water*. In addition, the protein is not likely to be present in drinking water because the protein is deployed in minute quantities within the plant, and studies demonstrate that Cry1F protein is rapidly degraded in soil.

2. *Non-dietary exposure*. Because *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai* Cry1F insect control protein is expressed in minute quantities and is retained within the plant, there is virtually no potential for dermal or inhalation exposure to the protein.

E. Cumulative Exposure

Common modes of toxicity are not relevant to consideration of the cumulative exposure to *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry1F insect control protein. The product has demonstrated low toxicity and these effects do not appear to be cumulative with any other known compounds.

F. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population*. The deployment of the product in minute quantities within the plant, the very low toxicity of the product, the lack of allergenic potential, and the high degree of digestibility of the protein, are all factors in support of Mycogen's assertion that no significant risk is posed by exposure of the U.S. population to *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai* Cry1F insect control protein.

2. *Infants and children*. Non-dietary exposure to infants and children is not anticipated, due to the proposed use pattern of the product. Due to the very low toxicity of the product, the lack of allergenic potential, and the high degree of digestibility of the protein, dietary exposure is anticipated to be at very low levels and is not anticipated to pose any harm to infants and children.

G. Effects on the Immune and Endocrine Systems

Given the rapid digestibility of Cry1F delta endotoxin, no chronic effects are expected. Cry1F delta endotoxin, or metabolites of the endotoxin are not known to, or are expected to have any effect on the immune or endocrine systems. Proteins in general are not carcinogenic, therefore, no carcinogenic risk is associated with the Cry1F protein.

H. Existing Tolerances

There are no existing tolerances or exemptions from tolerance for *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai* Cry1F.

I. International Tolerances

There are no existing tolerances or exemptions from tolerance for *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *aizawai* Cry1F.

[FR Doc. 00–5050 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6546–4]

Agency Compliance Assistance Activity Plan: Comment Request

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Draft Annual Compliance Assistance Activity Plan (Plan) reflects EPA's commitment to help entities comply with regulatory requirements and improve environmental performance through compliance assistance. In this draft Plan, EPA catalogues compliance assistance activities planned across the entire Agency for FY 2001. This comprehensive approach allows interested stakeholders to understand the Agency's current compliance assistance priorities and activities and to suggest where tools or additional emphasis are still needed. The consolidated information will also assist compliance assistance providers in determining how to focus their resources without duplicating EPA's efforts. Additionally, the regulated community will be able to anticipate what compliance assistance will be available to them in the near future.

The Agency is seeking stakeholder input on the content, structure and usefulness of the Plan. EPA intends to utilize this feedback in the FY02 budget

development process and the FY01 budget implementation process.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Annual Compliance Assistance Activity Plan from the Internet at *www.seattle.battelle.org/epa-icaa*. Copies may also be by obtained by contacting Joanne Berman at the contact information provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanne Berman, (202) 564–7064; e-mail at *berman.joanne@epa.gov*; or by mail at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Compliance, Mail Code 2224A, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agency is committed to listening to stakeholders as we continuously improve the way we do business. In early 1999 the Agency held a series of stakeholder meetings to ask how we can better serve our customers. The ''Aiming for Excellence'' report (Report) released by Administrator Browner in July 1999 responds to key issues raised during the stakeholder meetings. EPA's commitment to develop the Annual Agency Compliance Assistance Activity Plan is one of the most ambitious actions items identified in the Report.

Objectives of the Plan are to: (1) Identify and coordinate similar activities to leverage resources; (2) provide an inventory of the Agency activities to assist stakeholders in planning their activities; and (3) seek stakeholder input on the Agency's compliance assistance priorities. The FY01 Plan is the first attempt to undertake this intra-agency planning. EPA will strive to consider stakeholder comments as we begin implementing the FY01 activities, but any major change in strategic direction would be difficult since the Agency's FY01 budget submission already includes specific projects. However, stakeholder comments will have a more significant impact on the FY02 planning and budgeting cycle that begins this spring. It is the Agency's expectation that as future (FY02 and beyond) Plans are developed, stakeholder input will influence the directions in which we focus our compliance assistance resources.

Dated: February 25, 2000.

Michael M. Stahl,

Acting Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 00–5043 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–65458]

Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–1998

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of document availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Draft Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–1998 is available for public review. Annual U.S. emissions for the period of time from 1990–1998 are summarized and presented by source category and sector. The inventory contains estimates of carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perflourocarbons (PFC), and sulfur hexaflouride (SF6) emission. The inventory also includes estimates of carbon sequestration in U.S. forests and, new this year, estimates of soil carbon. The technical approach used in this report to estimate emissions and sinks for greenhouse gases is consistent with the methodologies recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks is the latest in a series of annual U.S. submissions to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

DATE: To ensure your comments are considered for the final version of this document, please submit your comments prior to April 3, 2000. However, comments received after that date will still be welcomed and will be considered for the next edition of this report.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to Mr. Wiley Barbour at: Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Policy and Programs Division (2175), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, Fax: (202) 260–6405.

If you wish to send an email with your comments, you may send the email to *barbour.wiley@epa.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Wiley Barbour, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, Climate Policy and Programs Division, (202) 260–6972.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may view and download the document referenced above on the US EPA global warming site at http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/emissions/.

Dated: February 23, 2000.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 00–5038 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comments Requested

February 24, 2000.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before May 1, 2000. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications Commissions, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 1–A804, Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at (202) 418–0217 or via the Internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.